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General Assembly

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**Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples**

# Organization of work

## Note by the Chairman

### 1. Subsidiary bodies

1. During its previous session, the Special Committee conducted its work by referring the items which had been considered in preceding sessions by the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance to the plenary of the Special Committee. Therefore, the Special Committee was able to make savings in conference services and gave prominence to the items considered previously by the Subcommittee by discussing them in the plenary. The Working Group was replaced by the Bureau, whose meetings were open to all the members of the Special Committee. This arrangement, as proven in practice last year, helped to streamline the work, avoided duplication and enhanced efficiency.

2. The Chairman recommends to the Special Committee to agree to maintain the same arrangements, i.e. that the Subcommittee be terminated and its work be taken up at the plenary and that the Working Group be replaced by an open-ended Bureau. In the meantime, the Chairman may wish to discuss urgent as well as specific issues with the Bureau.

### 2. Allocation of items and procedure for consideration

3. Annexed to the present note is a list of pending matters for consideration by the Special Committee during the year, together with an indication of the procedure that the Committee may wish to adopt for each item.

4. The Special Committee should take into account the resolutions and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its fifty-second session that are relevant to the work of the Committee, as listed in the note by the Secretary-General (A/AC.109/L.1870). It is also understood that they should continue to be guided by the relevant provisions of the resolution adopted by the Assembly on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration (resolution 45/33), as well as the plan of action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, adopted by the Assembly in its resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991 on the basis of proposals contained in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General on the Decade.[1]

### 3. Order of priority for consideration of items

5. The Chairman will hold consultations with regard to the order of priority to be given for consideration of items in plenary meetings.

6. It is also his intention to hold consultations on specific activities envisaged under the plan of action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

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7. In the meantime, subject to the availability of the working papers prepared by the Secretariat, it is suggested that the Special Committee conduct its substantive work in accordance with the schedule of meetings approved by the General Assembly at its fifty-second session.[2]

### 4. Recommendations of the Special Committee to the General Assembly

8. In accordance with paragraph 31 of General Assembly decision 34/401 of 29 November 1979, and in the light of past experience, it is suggested that the Special Committee continue to follow the procedure adopted at its 1982 session[3] in connection with the formulation of its recommendations to the Assembly at its fifty-third session.

### 5. Utilization of conference-servicing resources

9. At its fifty-second session, the General Assembly decided to waive rules 67 and 108 of its rules of procedure in order to permit meetings to be declared open and debates to proceed without the presence of the quorum required under those rules. The Assembly also decided that morning meetings should begin at 10 a.m.

10. As those measures have further enhanced the effective utilization of conference-servicing resources, it is suggested that the Special Committee continue to follow the same procedure. It should be understood that, in accordance with the rules cited, the presence of a majority of the members would continue to be required for any decisions to be taken.

*Notes*

[1] A/46/634/Rev.1.

[2] A/52/23 (Part I), chap. I, para. 49.

[3] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/37/23/Rev.1), chap. I, paras.60-69.

# Annex

## Pending matters for consideration by the Special Committee during 1998

| *Question* | *Procedure for consideration* |
|---|---|
| East Timor | As a separate item |
| Falkland Islands (Malvinas) | " |
| Gibraltar | " |
| New Caledonia | " |
| Western Sahara | " |
| Special Committee decision of 15 August 1991 concerning Puerto Rico (A/52/23 (Part I), chap. I, para. 49) | As appropriate |
| Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 (*e*) of the Charter of the United Nations and related questions (General Assembly resolution 52/71) | As a separate item |
| Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories (General Assembly resolution 52/72) | " |
| Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration (General Assembly decision 52/417) | " |
| Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations (General Assembly resolution 52/73) | " |
| American Samoa | As a separate item |
| Anguilla | " |
| Bermuda | " |
| British Virgin Islands | " |
| Cayman Islands | " |
| Guam | " |
| Montserrat | " |
| Pitcairn | " |
| St. Helena | " |
| Tokelau | " |
| Turks and Caicos Islands | " |
| United States Virgin Islands | " |
| International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism (General Assembly resolution 46/181 and report of the Secretary-General (A/46/634/Rev.1, annex)) | As appropriate |
| Question of holding a series of meetings away from Headquarters | " |

| *Question* | *Procedure for consideration* |
|---|---|
| Question of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable | " |
| Pattern of conferences (General Assembly resolution 52/214) | " |
| Question of sending visiting missions to Territories (para. 12 of General Assembly resolution 52/78) | " |
| Dissemination of information on decolonization (General Assembly resolution 52/79) | " |
| Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of All Colonial Territories | " |
| Matters relating to the small Territories (para. 11 (*c*) of General Assembly resolution 52/78) | To be taken into consideration in the examination of specific Territories |
| International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (article 15 of the Convention) | " |
| Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories (General Assembly resolution 52/74) | " |
| Compliance of Member States with the Declaration and other relevant resolutions on decolonization (para. 11 (*b*) of General Assembly resolution 52/78) | " |